

a5  
time tooth 40 is being cleaned by the innermost ribs 24 --.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Add the following new claim:

1 ~~16.~~ A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:

5 an elongated hollow body, having an outer peripheral surface, extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant cross-section throughout; and

a6  
a plurality of longitudinally spaced pairs of annular ribs extending around said outer peripheral surface to facilitate the animal gripping said pet toy with its teeth, each said pairs of ribs defining a first  
10 narrow groove therebetween and adjacent pairs of ribs defining a second wider groove therebetween wherein the inner rib of each pair of ribs with respect to said second wider groove are disposed for engagement with the teeth and the outer rib of each pair of ribs with respect to said second wide groove are disposed for engagement with the gums when the animal bites  
15 down on said second wider groove.

[ Rewrite Claim 1 as follows:

a7  
2 ~~1~~ (Amended) [A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:]

[an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal  
5 axis and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant cross-section throughout;]

A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, said elongated hollow body further including:

10 a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first inner diameter and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis;

15 a second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second inner diameter and forming said second end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first bulbous section; and

20 a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a third inner diameter which forms an inner surface defining a center opening said third inner diameter being less than at least one of said firsts and second inner diameters.

Cancel Claims 2-4 without prejudice.

Rewrite Claim 5 as follows:

5 ~~5.~~ (Amended) [A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, further including:]

5 A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:

an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant cross-section throughout;

10 a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first inner diameter and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis;

15 a second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second inner diameter and forming said second end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first bulbous section;

20 a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a third inner diameter which forms an inner surface defining a center opening said third inner diameter being less than at least one of said first and second inner diameters; and

25 a rope extending through said elongated hollow body along said longitudinal axis having a fourth diameter smaller than either said first and second inner diameters and having an end with a knot formed therein which knot has a fifth diameter which is smaller than said at least one of said first and second inner diameters but is larger than said third inner diameter so that said knot can pass through said at least one of said first and second inner diameters but not pass through said third inner diameter and engages said inner surface of said center section as an anchor wherein said rope extends through the other of said at least one of said first and second  
30 openings to serve as a pull for said pet toy.

[Rewrite Claim 6 as follows:]

6 ~~53~~. (Amended) [A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, further including:]

A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw

exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy  
 5 comprising:

an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis  
and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant  
cross-section throughout;

10 a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first  
inner diameter and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body  
extending along said longitudinal axis;

a second bulbous section having a second opening defining a  
second inner diameter and forming said second end of said elongated  
hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said  
 15 first bulbous section;

a center section extending along said longitudinal axis  
between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second  
bulbous section, said center section having a third inner diameter which  
forms an inner surface defining a center opening said third inner diameter  
 20 being less than at least one of said first and second inner diameters; and

an edible animal treat extending through and resiliently  
gripped in said center opening.

[Rewrite Claim 7 as follows:]

17 ~~17~~ (Amended) [A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, further  
 including:]

A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw  
exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy  
 5 comprising:

an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis

and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant cross-section throughout;

10 a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first inner diameter and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis;

15 a second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second inner diameter and forming said second end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first bulbous section;

20 a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a third inner diameter which forms an inner surface defining a center opening said third inner diameter being less than at least one of said first and second inner diameters; and

a first edible animal treat extending through and resiliently gripped in said first opening; and

a second edible animal treat extending through and resiliently gripped in said second opening.

[Rewrite Claim 8 as follows:]

8 ~~8~~ (Amended) [A pet toy, as claimed in claim 1, further including:]

5 A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing jaw exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:

an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second ends and a side wall of substantially constant

cross-section throughout;

10 a first bulbous section having a first opening defining a first inner diameter and forming said first end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis;

15 a second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second inner diameter and forming said second end of said elongated hollow body extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first bulbous section;

20 a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a third inner diameter which forms an inner surface defining a center opening said third inner diameter being less than at least one of said first and second inner diameters; and

an edible animal treat having a length greater than that of said elongated hollow body, said edible food treat extending through and resiliently gripped in said first and second openings and said center opening.

Cancel Claim 11 without prejudice.

Amend Claim 12 as follows:

9 ~~12~~. (Amended) A pet toy for entertaining an animal and providing exercise, teeth cleaning and/or gum massaging for the animal, said pet toy comprising:

5 an elongated hollow body extending along a longitudinal axis and having first and second ends and a central hollow core of substantially constant diameter;

a first bulbous section extending along said longitudinal axis having a first opening defining a first diameter and a first wall thickness forming said first end of said elongated hollow body;

10 a second bulbous section extending along said longitudinal axis and spaced from said first bulbous section, said second bulbous section having a second opening defining a second diameter and a second wall thickness forming said second end of said elongated hollow body; [and]

15 a center section extending along said longitudinal axis between and connected to said first bulbous section and said second bulbous section, said center section having a thin deformable side wall and an inner surface forming a center opening of a third diameter which is less than at least one of said first and second diameters, said thin deformable  
20 side wall having a third thickness which is less than at least one of said first and second thicknesses[.] and

a plurality of longitudinally spaced pairs of annular ribs extending around said outer peripheral surface to facilitate the animal gripping said pet toy with its teeth, each said pairs of ribs defining a first  
25 narrow groove therebetween and adjacent pairs of ribs defining a second wider groove therebetween wherein the inner rib of each pair of ribs with respect to said second wider groove are disposed for engagement with the teeth and the outer rib of each pair of ribs with respect to said second wide groove are disposed for engagement with the gums when the animal bites  
30 down on said second wider groove.

Cancel Claims 14 and 15 without prejudice.